

ATTACHMENT 7.5: Evidence of Collaboration Regarding Supported Employment Services and Extended Services

Demonstrates evidence of the efforts of the designated State unit to identify and make arrangements, including entering cooperative agreements, with:

- a) *Other State agencies and other appropriate entities to assist in the provision of supported employment services; and*

The Division of Disability, Aging, and Rehabilitative Services, Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DDARS/VRS) will collaborate with various other state agencies for the provision of supported employment services.

1. The Division of Disability, Aging and Rehabilitative Service (DDARS), Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services (BDDS):

VRS and BDDS will utilize the same definition of supported employment, which is defined in the Rehabilitation Act, as amended. Staff from VRS will work with BDDS staff on a committee to approve new vendors for BDDS services, ensuring that the vendor has a clear understanding of the expectations from both programs. BDDS will provide extended services (follow along funds) for consumers that VRS assisted in becoming employed.

2. The Division of Mental Health:

VRS will continue to collaborate with the Division of Mental Health (DMH) to provide supported employment services to people with severe and persistent mental illness through the community mental health centers located in Indiana. VRS will also continue to work with the Supported Employment Consultation and Training Center established through a contract with VRS utilizing DMH funds as the state match.

2. The Department of Education:

VRS will maintain transition cooperative agreements with special education school cooperatives to: develop Transition Coordinating Councils and interagency agreements; coordinate transition plans within the school system and Vocational Rehabilitation Services; provide each student with job-related instruction; place each student in paid job opportunities (including

supported employment) while they are still in high school; and, toward the end of the student's last year

in school, the student will be assisted in obtaining a placement which can continue after the student exits high school.

3. The Department of Workforce Development:

VRS assisted in the development of School to Work Transition Request For Proposals in 1997 at a state level, ensuring that supported employment services were available to students with disabilities under the grant projects. VRS will continue to collaborate on a local level to advocate that shared students with disabilities obtain the services that they are eligible for through those grant projects.

VRS will also continue to work collaboratively with staff from Workforce Development in the "One Stop Shop" program, providing people with disabilities access to services available to the general public.

4. The Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning

VRS will work with the Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning to collaborate on the use of Medicaid Waivers for the provision of supported employment service.

b) *other public or nonprofit agencies or organizations within the State, employers, natural supports, and other entities with respect to the provision of extended services.*

1. The Indiana Employment Initiative (a federal grant project for "conversion" initially, continued through local and state support) will proceed with the following goals for community rehabilitation programs and changeover from facility based to community based services:

a. At least 30% of community rehabilitation programs will be involved in changeover; and

b. There will be an increase in the number of people with significant support needs represented as supported employment participants.

2. The Supported Employment Consultation and Training

Center will continue to provide training and technical assistance to community mental health centers in the provision of supported employment for people with severe and persistent mental illness.

3. Vocational Rehabilitation Services staff will remain current in and attend training on the planning and provision of natural supports. This includes involvement with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign sponsored training opportunities.
4. The Vocational Rehabilitation Services local staff, including the Region Managers, the Area Supervisors and the Counselors will work with employers in the community.
 - a. Staff will be represented on the local Private Industry Councils.
 - b. Staff will be represented on local business advisory councils as part of school to work transition projects as well as other projects, such as grants.
 - c. Training will occur with community rehabilitation program staff and employers on the feasibility of hiring persons with disabilities.
 - d. Staff will be involved in community Job Fairs.